



# NEWS RELEASE

**Public Affairs Office  
Fort Riley, KS 66442  
Telephone (785) 239-3033/3410 FAX (785) 239-2592  
After Hours (785) 239-2222  
E-mail: [stephanie.perrin@riley.army.mil](mailto:stephanie.perrin@riley.army.mil) or  
[skidmord@riley.army.mil](mailto:skidmord@riley.army.mil)  
[www.riley.army.mil](http://www.riley.army.mil)**



FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT  
Stephanie Perrin, Assistant Media Relations Officer (785) 239-3033

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## **3RD BDE. 'GRAY WOLVES' WELCOME COMMANDER**

By Mike Heronemus  
Editor

"Fort Riley is truly home to me," revealed Col. James Marye, after assuming command of the 3rd Brigade, 75th Division (Training Support), Aug. 4 in a ceremony at Cavalry Parade Field.

He accepted the brigade's colors from Maj. Gen. Stephen P. Best, the division's commanding general, after Best received them from outgoing brigade commander Col. Michael Courts.

Marye explained that Fort Riley was his father's first duty station after being commissioned through the Army's Officer Candidate School program. His mother became a naturalized citizen while they lived at Fort Riley.

"Before you stands one of the finest brigades in the U.S. Army," Marye advised those in the audience who had gathered for the change of command ceremony.

"(The brigade's Soldiers) have the awesome responsibility of mobilizing, training, accepting and deploying our outstanding reserve forces into combat. I am honored to have this opportunity to serve with you," he said.

The new commander brings combat Army aviation experience in Afghanistan and Iraq to his new position. He commanded 7th Battalion, 101st Aviation Regiment, 101st Airborne Division, during those combat tours. Soldiers of the "Gray Wolf" Brigade, ... I'm excited about our mission and working with you to accomplish it."

Best said a "wise and distinguished senior officer" once told him the measurement of success upon a change of command could be determined by answering "yes" to two questions:

"Is the unit in better shape now, when you're departing, than when you got there?" and

"Is the unit set up for success even after you've departed? Not only set up for success, but can it improve; can it get better?"

Best said, from his perspective as division commander, the answer to both questions was “yes.”

The answer to the first question “is a resounding ‘yes,’ as it characterizes the period of service in his great reign for Col. Mike Courts,” Best said.

For the second question, “from my perspective, the answer to that is ‘yes’ as well. That’s where Col. Jim Mayre comes about.

“The Army, again, has sent this division a distinguished Soldier, an experienced combat commander and a world class trainer,” Best explained.

Seventeen times in the past 18 years, Courts has participated in change of command ceremonies in various roles, the outgoing commander said.

“Each of those were very special, but I have to say that the first time I received a guidon and heard my name read off as the commander and today, when I pass the guidon for what is likely the last time, will always be the most significant (of those times),” Courts said.